Research.gov

Led by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Research.gov is the modernization of FastLane, and improves customer service for the research community by increasing access to grants management services and information while streamlining and standardizing business processes among partner agencies. Research.gov is also a transparent source for information about federal research spending and outcomes for the general public.

Leading a Government-wide Initiative

In 2005, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) selected NSF to lead a research-focused grants consortium as part of the Grants Management Line of Business initiative. OMB selected NSF to lead this initiative for the research community because of NSF's:

- Focus on the research community
- High standards and performance to its customers
- Leadership position in the grants community

Modernizing NSF's FastLane through Research.gov

While NSF has achieved unprecedented success with FastLane, the system was built starting in 1994 and is in need of a major modernization. NSF is modernizing FastLane through Research.gov and is developing and deploying Research.gov in a measured, modular approach consistent with the way FastLane was built. This approach allows functionality to grow at the pace NSF and the community can integrate into established business practices. Research.gov allows NSF to continue its leadership role and commitment to the broader research community by leveraging its FastLane capabilities to deliver a single location for research organizations to find relevant information and conduct grants business with federal research agencies.

Fulfilling the Research Community's Need for Streamlined Services

One of the greatest challenges the research community faces is the administrative burden associated with federal grants management. Each federal research grant-making agency administers grants differently, with varying business processes and policies, which creates undue burden for grantees.

A 2007 survey of research faculty conducted by the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) revealed that[1]:

- Sixty-five percent of researchers believe they could devote two additional hours per week to research if they had more assistance on administrative tasks.
- Faculty at U.S. universities and research organizations spend forty-two percent of research time on grants administrative tasks, on average sixteen percent of the work week.
- Time spent on administrative tasks related to federal grants represents an investment of more than eighty-five million dollars.

Supporting a Transparent and Open Government

NSF is dedicated to promoting an open and transparent government. Research.gov is a community-driven solution that provides easy access to key research-related information and services from multiple agencies in one location. Through such services as Research Spending & Results and Science, Engineering & Education Innovation, NSF is leveraging Research.gov to improve clarity into federally-funded research and outcomes, offering the general public an opportunity to see where their tax dollars are going. This increased transparency is a result of collaboration among federal research-related agencies participating in Research.gov to streamline services and information to better serve the needs of the research community and general public. The research community is a key participant in shaping the services and information made available on Research.gov. Anyone can provide their input via the feedback@research.gov email address, online feedback form, online survey, and at Research.gov outreach events, such as research-related conferences.

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[1] *A Profile of Federal-Grant Administrative Burden among Federal Demonstration Partnership Faculty*, Faculty Standing Committee of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (January 2007).